IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 12 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Additional safety features contained in various embodiments of the invention include a traction surface design on the top mat surface. This top surface consists of a colored gell coat layer 110 ~~and a color layering of the wearing face of the heating mat. Consequently, when the wearing face~~ When this top gell coat layer 110 wears away, a contrasting color (contained on layer 112) is ~~seen~~ then visible to the user to indicate ~~to the user~~ that the outer face is worn and the heater should be replaced. By way of example, the top of the heating mat would be black and as this top layer sufficiently wears, it will show an underlying red color. Accordingly, this functions as a color warning indicator that the heating mat should be replaced.

Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 20 of page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In additional embodiments of the invention a flame retardant polyester flow coat resin, which as a liquid is enriched with antimony trioxide, or similar material, is used in one or more layers 124. Further, one or more layers 122 of a roving glass fiber mesh are utilized thereby providing reinforcing strength. That is, the random position of the glass fibers in this manner adds significantly to the structural stability of the mat. The resulting heating mat has excellent abrasion qualities and high compressive and tensile strengths. Further, the mat will not break down even under a 5KV high pot test.

Please replace the paragraph commencing at line 20 of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In on embodiment, the method of manufacturing the heating mat comprises the following. A heating blanket is constructed using a resistance foils that are electrically in a series/parallel configuration. An example of such a configuration is depicted in Fig. 4c. As an aide in understanding, Fig. 4a has been added ~~to illustrate~~ as a side view illustration of foils in a simple series configuration, ~~and~~ Fig. 4b is added ~~to show~~ as a side view illustration of a series/parallel configuration of three foil elements in parallel with "jumpers" used to make series connections (of additional sets of three foil elements). Fig. 4c is similar to Fig. 4b in that the foils are arranged so that jumpers are not required.